

Claims

1. A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of
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- i) contacting a test compound with a NPFF1 polypeptide,
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- ii) detect binding of said test compound to said NPFF1 polypeptide.
2. A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of
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- i) determining the activity of a NPFF1 polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound or in the absence of said test compound,
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- ii) determining the activity of said polypeptide at a different concentration of said test compound.
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3. A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

- 5 i) determining the activity of a NPFF1 polypeptide at a certain concentration of a test compound,
- ii) determining the activity of a NPFF1 polypeptide at the presence of a compound known to be a regulator of a NPFF1 polypeptide.
4. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the step of contacting is in or at the surface of a cell.
- 10 5. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the cell is in vitro.
6. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the step of contacting is in a cell-free system.
- 15 7. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polypeptide is coupled to a detectable label.
8. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the compound is coupled to a detectable label.
- 20 9. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the test compound displaces a ligand which is first bound to the polypeptide.
10. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the polypeptide is attached to a solid support.
- 25 11. The method of any of claims 1 to 3, wherein the compound is attached to a solid support.
- 30 12. A method of screening for therapeutic agents useful in the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases,

cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of

- 5 i) contacting a test compound with a NPFF1 polynucleotide,
- ii) detect binding of said test compound to said NPFF1 polynucleotide.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is RNA.
- 10 14. The method of claim 12 wherein the contacting step is in or at the surface of a cell.
15. The method of claim 12 wherein the contacting step is in a cell-free system.
- 15 16. The method of claim 12 wherein polynucleotide is coupled to a detectable label.
17. The method of claim 12 wherein the test compound is coupled to a detectable label.
- 20 18. A method of diagnosing a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and
- 25 genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of
- i) determining the amount of a NPFF1 polynucleotide in a sample taken from said mammal,
- 30 ii) determining the amount of NPFF1 polynucleotide in healthy and/or diseased mammals.

19. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising a therapeutic agent which binds to a NPFF1 polypeptide.
20. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising a therapeutic agent which regulates the activity of a NPFF1 polypeptide.
21. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising a therapeutic agent which regulates the activity of a NPFF1 polypeptide, wherein said therapeutic agent is
- i) a small molecule,
 - ii) an RNA molecule,
 - iii) an antisense oligonucleotide,
 - iv) a polypeptide,
 - v) an antibody, or
 - vi) a ribozyme.
22. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory

diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising a NPFF1 polynucleotide.

- 5 23. A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising a NPFF1 polypeptide.
- 10 24. Use of regulators of a NPFF1 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal.
- 15 25. Method for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition useful for the treatment of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal comprising the steps of
- 20 i) identifying a regulator of NPFF1,
- ii) determining whether said regulator ameliorates the symptoms of a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders in a mammal; and
- 25 iii) combining of said regulator with an acceptable pharmaceutical carrier.
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26. Use of a regulator of NPFF1 for the regulation of NPFF1 activity in a mammal having a disease comprised in a group of diseases consisting of hematological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, disorders of the peripheral and central nervous system, respiratory diseases like COPD and asthma and genito-urological disorders.
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